

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6513**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1382

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 19, 2003

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Elective Study of the Bible in Public Schools.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Denbo

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill provides that a school corporation may include in its curriculum as an elective a study of world literature, including the Bible and other similar great works of literature. The bill requires the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards Board to jointly develop and report to the Legislative Council by January 1, 2005, a plan to implement the "academic study of religion in secondary schools".

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2004.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Currently, Biblical Literature is offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. In addition, World Literature is also offered as an approved high school course for one credit under the same curriculum area. The Department of Education already provides curriculum assistance for courses contained within English/Language Arts (including World and Biblical Literature). There should not be additional cost to the state regarding this portion of the bill.

The Department of Education and the Professional Standards Board would likely have a slight increase in administrative costs to produce the report required by the bill. The report to the Legislative Council would be required in electronic format.

The funds and resources required for the report could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. The Department of Education reverted approximately \$33.7 M in FY 2003. The Professional Standards Board

reverted about \$675,700 in FY 2003. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions. The source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend upon legislative or administrative actions.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Currently, school corporations are already allowed to offer World and Biblical Literature electives via the curriculum area of English/Language Arts. It is not likely that the provisions of this bill would result in additional administrative time or cost to school corporations.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, Professional Standards Board.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School Corporations.

**Information Sources:** Dr. Mary Andis, Department of Education, (317) 232-9138; State Budget Agency: *General Fund, Property Tax Replacement Fund, Rainy Day Fund, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2003, And Summaries.*

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.